

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

David D. Smith, President
Sinclair Broadcasting

Your decision to "force" the airing of the upcoming anti-Kerry propaganda is the most despicable example to "slime" journalism I have ever witnessed. Your spokesperson this morning on CNN was disgraceful and laughable. Your connection with the Republican party through campaign contributions is well documented. Your company is a prime example of why the FCC rules loosening restrictions on media concentration in this country are a threat to the very fabric of democracy.

It seems to me that in the name of fair and balanced media coverage you should be forced to purchase and "force" the airing of Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 911". I can assure you that if our local ABC affiliate is owned by Sinclair Broadcasting, that channel will never again darken my living room.

Sincerely,

Jim Catton
5303 Birch Trail
Honor, MI 49640